



# Affiliate Spotlight



## Maine Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics MAND's Efforts to Help end Student Hunger

The Maine Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' (MAND) Food Security Task Force has been working with Portland Rotary's Childhood Hunger and Education (CHE), [Full Plate Full Potential](#), the Senate task force to end student hunger, and The Locker Project, to increase registration, participation, and consumption for school food programs. The project began when the Portland Rotary made it part of their mission to raise awareness on childhood hunger and at the same time Senator Alford presented a new bill, [LD 933: An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to End Student Hunger In Maine](#), which was enacted this year. Dave Seddon, Maine's President, who is also a member of Rotary, and Pat Watson, Maine's Past-President, thought that MAND could partner to help the cause in 2014.

This partnership allowed MAND's Food Security Task Force, Rotary CHE, and the Locker Project, to be in a position to develop and execute best practices spurred by Full Plate Full Potential's mission: End student/childhood hunger in Maine. The project has picked up local momentum in the Portland, Maine area which has helped to promote involvement from the community and public school system.

The first efforts have been to increase student registration in the school food programs by

supplementing the Portland Public School's 8,000 student applications with easy to read information about the benefits of either CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) and the Meal Benefit Application (also referred to as Free/Reduced Meal application). Follow-up efforts are being performed for all schools to identify households that have not submitted applications and to target three specific schools with low historical registration. The team will continue to work with school administrators, social workers, counsellors, and community members to ensure goals are met. Funding for the project was provided through a Rotary grants (District and Portland) that helps to offset outreach information and incentives for both schools and individuals that have access to sensitive data and that will work directly with student households.

MAND manages their volunteer support through their MAND Food Security Task Force, a branch of their Public Policy Committee. Additionally, MAND continues to support Full Plates Full Potential by having a seat at the statewide, Senator led group and providing recommendations to a newly created position, Planning Research Assistant, which will bridge gaps between DOE and DHHS efforts.

For more information about the work MAND has done, feel free to contact Dave Seddon at [nutrition.ne@gmail.com](mailto:nutrition.ne@gmail.com).